

TOP SECRET

27 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable W. W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT : Advanced Reconnaissance Aircraft

Further to our telephone conversation of this date, this Agency feels that the draft memorandum on this subject prepared by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget does not quite fully reflect the opinion of the Director of Central Intelligence in that:

The SR-71 aircraft cannot yet be considered - essentially interchangeable with the A-12 for operational purposes because the A-12 has been fully operational for one year and has already demonstrated greater performance for peace time reconnaissance missions than has the SR-71, which has not yet achieved an operational capability.

/S/ Rufus Taylor

Rufus Taylor
Acting Director

NSC Review Completed

RLT:mcm

#1 Orig - via courier to the White House

#21 - ER

#31 - A/DD/S&T

#4 - A/DCE

#5 - NIE

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